AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

The words are used without qualification in the disclosure and claims. However it is to be understood that alignment, curvature, radius and plumbness may not necessarily be perfectly achieved. Thus they are meant to mean substantial alignment, curvature, radius and plumbness.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 22 with the following amended paragraph:

The verb 'monitor', as used herein, is intended to mean establishing, on an on-going basis, measurements of a parameter such as plumbness or gap width.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

- responsive to such monitoring, manipulating and positioning the tank wall so that it is plumb, at a desired elevation and in plane at the tack point;

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 12 with the following amended paragraph:

- supplying, manipulating and positioning the strip so that it aligns with and assumes the curvature of the wall at the tack point, with the strip and wall edges being separated to provide a gap, at the tack point, that is close to being optimum for welding;

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 20 with the following amended paragraph:

- moving the strip carrier means and the bottom of the strip radially through a relatively coarse travel (for example, 1"), in response to the gap measurement, as required to adjust the gap width at the tack point by a

relatively fine amount (controllable to thousandths of an inch) to bring that gap width toward a ~~to the~~ pre-determined optimum width (say 1/16" + .1").

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 8 with the following amended paragraph:

In other words, using this method I can substantially accomplish the following:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

In this preferred embodiment, adjustment of the coil orientation is used to establish gap width at the tack point on a 'coarse' basis and radial adjustment of the bottom of the strip is used to vary the gap width on a 'fine' basis, if required, to correct minute deviation from a desired optimum.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 20 with the following amended paragraph:

- strip carrier means, connected with the main frame for movement in concert therewith, operative to hold and support the bottom of the strip, preferably ahead of the tack point. The strip carrier means preferably holds the string substantially perpendicular to the plane of the main frame;

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 3 with the following amended paragraph:

- a fitting frame assembly, connected with the main frame for movement in concert therewith. The fitting frame assembly includes a curved fitting frame which conforms to the ultimately desired wall ~~or~~ curvature. Preferably this assembly is mounted to the rear outer corner of the main frame. The undercarriage means and the main frame are adjusted to locate the fitting frame externally of the tank wall and 'in radius'. The fitting frame functions to externally engage or support both the wall and strip, above and below the joint line, ahead of the tack point, to provide a backing or anvil against which

the wall and strip lay and are pressed to align their edges and ensure that the strip and wall at the tack point assume a verticality dictated by the main frame positioning and a curvature dictated by the curvature of the fitting frame; and